

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WESTERN DIVISION**

COURTHOUSE NEWS SERVICE,

Plaintiff,

v.

RYAN BOYCE, in his official capacity as Director of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts; MICHELLE BALL, in her official capacity as Clerk of Superior Court of Johnston County; RENEE WHITTENTON, in her official capacity as Clerk of Superior Court of Harnett County; and CLAUDIA CROOM, in her official capacity as Clerk of Superior Court of Wake County,

Defendants.

Case No.: 5:23-CV-280-FL

**STIPULATION OF VOLUNTARY  
DISMISSAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(ii), Plaintiff Courthouse News Service and Defendants Ryan Boyce, in his official capacity as Director of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts; Michelle Ball, in her official capacity as Clerk of Superior Court of Johnston County; Renee Whittenton, in her official capacity as Clerk of Superior Court of Harnett County; and Claudia Croom, in her official capacity as Clerk of Superior Court of Wake County, by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby stipulate to this Voluntary Dismissal Without Prejudice of all claims in this action, with each party to bear its own attorneys' fees and costs.

Respectfully submitted this 4th day of February, 2026.

THOMAS & LoCICERO PL

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that the undersigned this **4th** day of **February, 2026**, has caused the foregoing to be electronically filed using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to all the counsel of record for the Parties who participate in the CM/ECF system.

*/s/ Carol Jean LoCicero*  
Attorney